

Form 10-300
(July 1957)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Indiana	
COUNTY: Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 31 1972	

1. NAME			
COMMON: Woodruff Place			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1700 to 2000 East Michigan and East Tenth Streets (500 to 1000 North)			
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis			
STATE Indiana	CODE 12	COUNTY: Marion	CODE 097

3. CLASSIFICATION		STATUS		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY		STATE:
Private residences individually owned. Landscaped esplanades and fountains under jurisdiction of the Indianapolis Park and Recreation Department.		
Streets and period street lighting under jurisdiction of the Indianapolis Department of Transportation.		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION		COUNTY:
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Marion County Recorder's Office, City-County Building		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Indianapolis	Indiana	10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS		ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey		JUL 31 1972	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Historic American Buildings Survey and the Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Washington	D.C.	08	

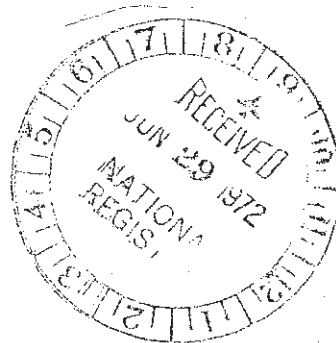
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slightly Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Annexed by Indianapolis in 1962, this Victorian enclave long existed as an incorporated town entirely surrounded by the city whose center is only 2½ miles away. Its 77 acres were platted as a "residence park" in 1872 with the condition that lots be 80 by 170 feet and houses, it is said, cost \$20,000 or more. Three generous north and south streets were constructed each centered by a wide, landscaped, esplanade. The esplanades retain fountains, great, ornated flower urns and various pieces of cast iron statuary which the founder hoped resembled figures in the gardens of Versailles. One east and west street bisects the area. The great variety of native trees and shrubs and of cultivated plants affords an informal arboretum for the large high school located on comparable adjoining acreage, the school itself of historic interest, some of its Civil War Arsenal buildings having been recorded in the Historic American Buildings Survey 1970. Art classes from the school often use the esplanades for sketching and painting sessions. The three large and elaborate fountains at the intersections of the east and west drive and the six smaller fountains in the esplanades are in process of restoration as are the 74 vintage light standards with fluted metal columns and cross arms bearing five white twelve inch globes. Wholly residential, save for a community school, the district has the quality of a small town of some American origin. Approximately 65% date to the late 1890's or very early 1900's, and are neo-Jacobean or East Lake in style, usually three storeys in height, the third storey meant as a ballroom often with dais or balcony for orchestra. Rooms are large, high ceilinged, with huge windows, many with beveled plate glass and diamond shaped insets. Hall and stair windows are often of colored patterned glass "Tiffany glass." The many fire places are operable and fine hardwood abounds. Brass door knobs are highly embossed. Entrance doors have copper kickplates. Some of the original carriage houses remain in liveable state. The district is bounded on the north by a stone appearing wall designed after that shown in an 1873-74 color lithograph of Woodruff Place, on the south by an ornamental iron fence with common fencing on the east and west. Layout, planting, urns, figures and fountains look now much as they do in the contemporary print. The objects are the pieces originally installed. Some are described and called by name in Booth Tarkington's 1919 Pulitzer Prize novel "The Magnificent Ambersons." The author reported that Woodruff Place served as a model for his Amberson Addition in the story.





SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1872 to present			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	Association with
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	area, events and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	persons.
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<u>Architecture</u>			
<p>The district preserves a late Victorian style of architecture not frequently found in present landmarks and memorials and is in an area where such preservation seems most appropriate. Indiana was one of the most heavily forested of the American states and the houses are of native timber and were built on a virgin acreage known as "the dark woods." Great trees remain along the streets and in the esplanades. Interior hardwood used for doors, casements, moldings, stairs and railings, mantels and floors is of fine quality and of great value. Woodruff Place is still wholly residential and while there is a certain unity of period, a pleasing and interesting variety in detail exists as shown in accompanying photographs. Some individual structures depart from the general pattern. Period hardware and much fine glass is in evidence, the glass often part of a bay window, that superior predecessor of the ubiquitous picture window. The good state of preservation is a recommendation. The residences bear an air of permanence and fitness.</p>			
<u>Landscape Architecture</u>			
<p>The layout of the streets and esplanades, well proportioned and distinctive, presents an unusual example of urban design antedating the "garden city" idea.</p> <p>The planting represents many varieties of trees and shrubs, replenished with some frequency, but carrying out a century-old idea of decoration.</p> <p>The flower urns are ornate; the large fountains bear cherubs, swans, scrolls and turtles; in the esplanades are classic female figures; all the designs showing the European influence of the 1870's, an era rarely so extensively illustrated or so well preserved.</p>			
<u>Association with Area, Events and Persons</u>			
<p>Woodruff Place is the model for the "Amberson Addition" described in such detail in Newton Booth Tarkington's Pulitzer Prize winning novel "The Magnificent Ambersons". Tarkington thought the Addition resembled the Gardens of Versailles.</p> <p>Woodruff Place adjoins and forms an appropriate approach to the state's largest high school located on the site of a former U.S. Arsenal several of whose vintage buildings are a part of the Historic American Buildings Survey, among them a moated powder magazine, an officers' residence, a guard house and an arsenal with a clock tower. The school's students are afforded outdoor classrooms in botany, in art and architectural detail and may feel close to American literature using Tarkington as an example. American history, business, folklore, adventure may be illustrated by the</p>			

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Indiana	
COUNTY	
Marion	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL	1972

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE--continued
Statement of Significance--continued

lives of Woodruff Place founders and residents, i.e., James O. Woodruff, a founder, lost his fortune in the 1873 Panic and later established a floating university, probably the first; a longtime citizen was one of the but six survivors of the Greely farthest north expedition in 1884; another resident was granted a medal by the Emperor of China; the founder of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra lived here; the farm home of the Hiatts is known as "the House of the blue lights" a story recently investigated by Indiana University.

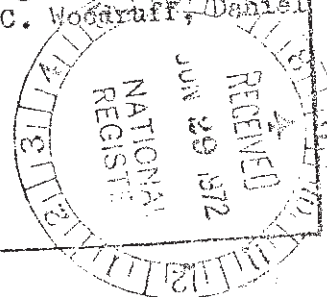
Relation to City Government

In 1972 the Indianapolis Park and Recreation Department is restoring the fountains, the figures, the urns and is planting or replacing trees and shrubs. The city Transportation Department has made an appropriation to replace the charming old light standards using the original fluted molds.

As the houses become available they are being purchased by young professional men, bringing back into the central city a helpful group.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES--continued

- the 1970 survey.
Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana. Chicago, 1876. Reprinted Indianapolis, 1968. Woodruff Place site shown on double spread map of Indianapolis.
Indianapolis Illustrated. (Indianapolis?), 1889. Illustration of fountain in Woodruff Place, vol. II.
Indianapolis Journal. The Journal Handbook of Indianapolis. Indianapolis, 1902. Edited by Max R. Hyman. Woodruff Place, pp.98-100.
Peat, Wilbur D. Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century. Indianapolis, 1962. "The Neo-Jacobean Mode", pp.149-157.
Riley, James Whitcomb. June at Woodruff, in his Green Fields and Running Brooks Indianapolis, 1892; published 1893, p.71.
Robinson, J. R. Picturesque Indianapolis. Indianapolis, 1890. Some illustration of Woodruff Place.
Stranger's Guide to the City of Indianapolis. Indianapolis, 1882. Illustrations of Woodruff Place included.
Tarkington, Newton Booth. The Magnificent Ambersons. Garden City, New York, 1918. Woodruff Place was the model for the Amberson Addition laid out in the novel.
Woodress, James. Booth Tarkington, Gentleman from Indiana. Philadelphia. "Amberson Addition was in reality Woodruff Place", pp.197-198.
Woodruff Place Directory. Indianapolis, 1931. Illustrated from photographs.
Woodruff Place Entrance. Indianapolis, 1874-1875. Color lithograph by Braden and Burford. Carries signatures of J. O. Woodruff, Paul C. Woodruff, Daniel McCauley (an Indianapolis Mayor) and John A. Comingore.
Woodruff Place Post. Vol. IV, no. 38, April 30, 1917.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Henry. City Should Cherish Woodruff Place. Indianapolis News, December 31, 1971, p.11. The author had been told by Tarkington that Woodruff Place was the model for the Amberson Addition in his Magnificent Ambersons.

Coats, Nellie M. Provisional History of Woodruff Place Founding. Indianapolis 1971. Manuscript.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. Greater Indianapolis. Chicago, 1910. Two volumes. Woodruff Place, vol. I, p.439; James O. Woodruff, vol. I, p.332.

Historic American Buildings Survey. Indiana Catalog. Manuscript to be published by the Indiana Historical Society. Woodruff Place included in

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	46'	52"	86°	07'	50"			
NE	39°	46'	52"	86°	07'	34"			
SE	39°	46'	27"	86°	07'	34"			
SW	39°	46'	27"	86°	07'	50"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 77

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Nellie M. Coats

ORGANIZATION:
Woodruff Place Civic League

STREET AND NUMBER:
559 East Drive Woodruff Place

CITY OR TOWN:
Indianapolis

STATE:
Indiana

DATE:
March 21, 1972

CODE:
15

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name John R. Fiegel

Title Director

Date 5-15-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

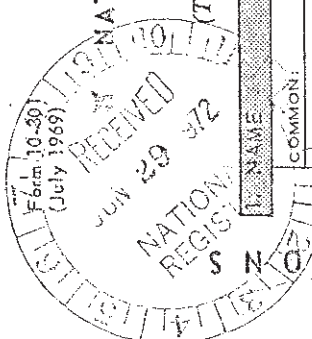
Date 7/31/72

ATTEST:

Nellie M. Coats
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/25/72

NW 16/574420/442361
UTM
NW 16/574420/442361
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



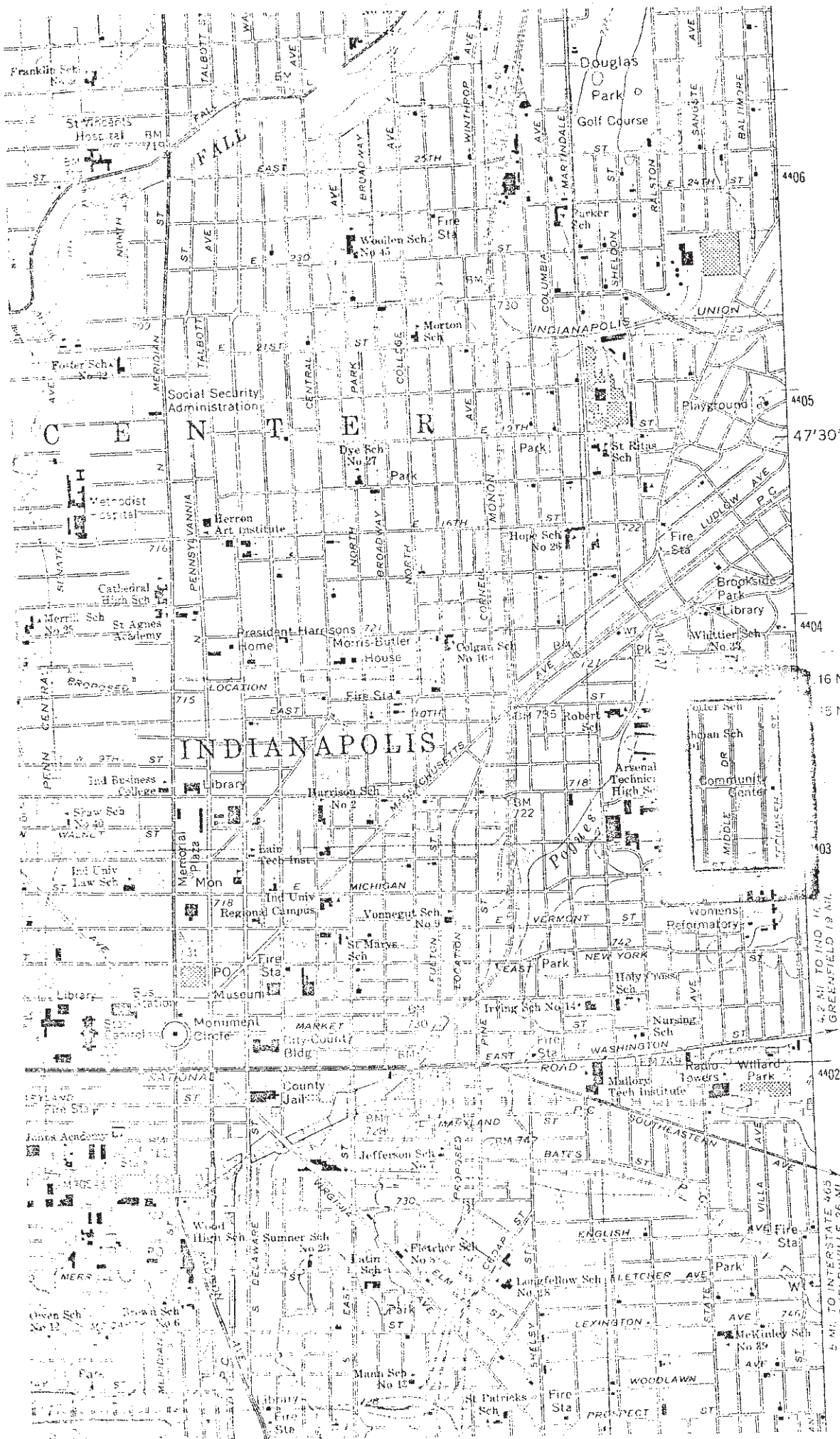
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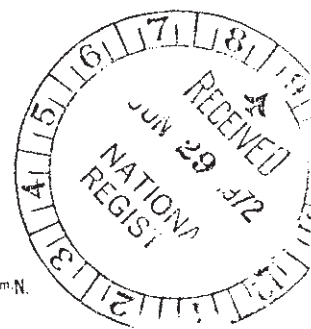
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Indiana		COUNTY Marion		FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE			
13		1967			
1. NAME COMMON: Woodruff Place AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 1700 to 2000 East Michigan (500 North) and East Tenth (1000 North) Streets CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana					
CODE 13		COUNTY: Marion		CODE 027	
3. MAP REFERENCE SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey SCALE: 1:24,000 DATE: 1967					
4. REQUIREMENTS TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS 1. Property boundaries where required. 2. North arrow.					
Corner		Latitude		Longitude	
NW		39°46'15.2N		85°07'15.0W	
NE		39°46'15.2N		85°07'15.0W	
SW		39°46'15.2N		85°07'15.0W	
SE		39°46'15.2N		85°07'15.0W	



WOOD-
RUFF
PLACE



NE 16/574840/440362
SE 16/574850/440276
SW 16/574450/440276
NW 16/574420/440361

CD

